

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A personal authentication apparatus inquires into a face-picture of a suspected person as well as a face-picture of a person himself. A personal authentication apparatus for certifying that a user is a person himself comprises an image pickup unit for taking a face-picture of the user, a particular person comparing unit for comparing the user's face-picture taken by the image pickup unit with a face-picture of a particular person held in advance, a personal picture acquiring unit for acquiring the face-picture of the person himself from a memory, and an authentication unit for deciding whether or not the user's face-picture taken by the image pickup unit is identical with the face-picture of the person himself acquired by the personal picture acquiring unit by a different method based upon the comparison result by the particular person comparing unit.